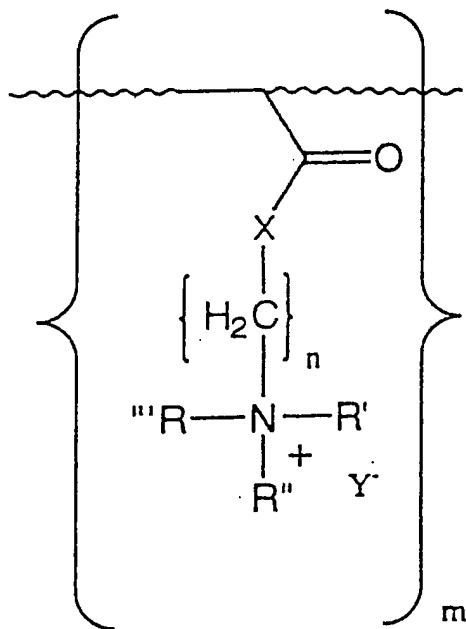


**Listing of Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-55. (Cancelled)

56. (New) A wound dressing adapted to cover and contact a wound, said wound dressing comprising a cationic aqueous hydrogel that comprises an inherently antimicrobial quaternary amine acrylate polymer having the formula:



wherein  $n$  is an integer of 2 to 3;  $R'$ ,  $R''$  and  $R'''$  are independently selected from the group consisting of H,  $C_1$  to  $C_{16}$  alkyl, aryl, arylamine, alkylamine, alkaryl and aralkyl;  $X$  is selected from the group consisting of O and NH;  $Y^-$  is an acceptable anionic counterion to the  $N^+$  of the quaternary amine and  $m$  is an integer greater than 50,000.

57. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein  $R'$ ,  $R''$  and  $R'''$  are independently selected from the group consisting of H,  $C_1$  to  $C_8$  alkyl, phenyl, tolyl, and benzyl.

58. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein  $R'$ ,  $R''$  are methyl and  $R'''$  is benzyl.

59. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein  $R'$ ,  $R''$  and  $R'''$  are methyl.

60. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein  $X$  is O.

61. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein  $X$  is NH.

62. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein  $Y^-$  is selected from the group consisting of  $Cl^-$ ,  $Br^-$ ,  $HSO_4^-$ , and  $CH_3SO_4^-$ .

63. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein  $Y^-$  is  $Cl^-$ .

64. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein  $n$  is 2.

65. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein  $n$  is 3.

66. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein said acrylate polymer is formed from a monomer selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxyethyltrimethyl ammonium chloride, acryloyloxyethyltrimethyl ammonium methyl sulfate, acrylamidopropyltrimethyl ammonium chloride, acryloxyethyldimethylbenzyl ammonium chloride, and combinations thereof.

67. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, further comprising a support structure affixed to said hydrogel.

68. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 67, wherein said support structure includes a web or fibril material.

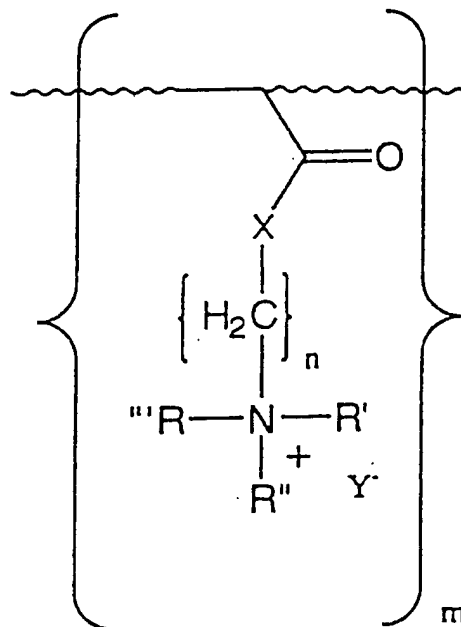
69. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 67, wherein said support structure includes an impermeable backing.

70. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein said acrylate polymer comprises from about 15 to about 95 percent by weight of said hydrogel.

71. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein said acrylate polymer comprises from about 61 to about 90 percent by weight of said hydrogel.

72. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 56, wherein said acrylate polymer comprises from about 65 to about 75 percent by weight of said hydrogel.

73. (New) A wound dressing adapted to cover and contact a wound, said wound dressing comprising a support structure in communication with a cationic aqueous hydrogel that comprises from about 15 to about 95 percent by weight of an inherently antimicrobial quaternary amine acrylate polymer having the formula:



wherein  $n$  is an integer of 2 to 3;  $R'$ ,  $R''$  and  $R'''$  are independently selected from the group consisting of H,  $C_1$  to  $C_8$  alkyl, phenyl, tolyl, and benzyl;  $X$  is selected from the group consisting of O and NH;  $Y^-$  is selected from the group consisting of  $Cl^-$ ,  $Br^-$ ,  $HSO_4^-$ , and  $CH_3SO_4^-$  and  $m$  is an integer greater than 50,000.

74. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein  $R'$ ,  $R''$  are methyl and  $R'''$  is benzyl.

75. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein  $R'$ ,  $R''$  and  $R'''$  are methyl.

76. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein  $X$  is O.

77. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein  $X$  is NH.

78. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein  $Y^-$  is  $Cl^-$ .

79. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein n is 2.

80. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein n is 3.

81. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein said acrylate polymer is formed from a monomer selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxyethyltrimethyl ammonium chloride, acryloyloxyethyltrimethyl ammonium methyl sulfate, acrylamidopropyltrimethyl ammonium chloride, acryloxyethyldimethylbenzyl ammonium chloride, and combinations thereof.

82. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein said support structure is affixed to said hydrogel.

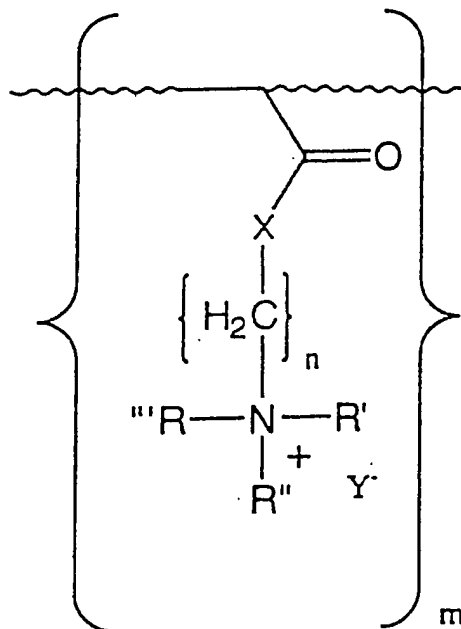
83. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 82, wherein said support structure includes a web or fibril material.

84. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 82, wherein said support structure includes an impermeable backing.

85. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein said acrylate polymer comprises from about 61 to about 90 percent by weight of said hydrogel.

86. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein said acrylate polymer comprises from about 65 to about 75 percent by weight of said hydrogel.

87. (New) A wound dressing comprising a support structure and a cationic aqueous hydrogel affixed to said support structure and adapted to cover a wound, said hydrogel comprising from about 61 to about 90 percent by weight of an inherently antimicrobial quaternary amine acrylate polymer having the formula:



wherein n is an integer of 2 to 3; R', R'' and R''' are independently selected from the group consisting of H, C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, phenyl, tolyl, and benzyl; X is selected from the group consisting of O and NH; Y<sup>-</sup> is selected from the group consisting of Cl<sup>-</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup>, HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, and CH<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> and m is an integer greater than 50,000.

88. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein X is O.
89. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein X is NH.
90. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein said acrylate polymer comprises from about 65 to about 75 percent by weight of said hydrogel.
91. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein n is 2.
92. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein n is 3.

93. (New) A wound dressing as defined in claim 73, wherein said acrylate polymer is formed from a monomer selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxyethyltrimethyl ammonium chloride, acryloyloxyethyltrimethyl ammonium methyl sulfate, acrylamidopropyltrimethyl ammonium chloride, acryloxyethyldimethylbenzyl ammonium chloride, and combinations thereof.

---

E1  
cont